COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Friday, the *30th of November 1934.*
15th of Vrischigam 1110.

The House met at 11-30 A. M. in the Town Hall, Ernakulam, with M. R. Ry., P. Krishna Menon Avl., in the chair. Messrs. C. Barton Wright, K. G. Nayar, Ismail Hajee Essa Sait, P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri, S. S. Koder, M. Krishna Menon, K. T. Mathew, C. A. Ouseph and A. Sankara Poduval were absent.

Questions and Answers.

Prisoners in jail on life imprisonment—loss of the use of legs.

126. A. Eachara Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they are aware that those who are in jail on life imprisonment have lost the use of their nether limbs ;

(b) whether they have noticed that the legs of the lifer Shekannan have become thin and useless ;

(c) if so, have they enquired into the cause of these lifers contracting this disease ;

(d) whether they have enquired in other jails if this was the case with the lifers there ;

(e) whether it is a fact that at the instance of Dr. V. Verghese one such prisoner was released and that he got himself completely cured by native physicians ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—

(a) Yes; a few of them.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes; but no distinct cause can be given with any definiteness.

(d) No.

(e) There is record to show that one such case released on a former occasion was partially relieved by undergoing Ayurvedic treatment.

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Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Regarding the other patients there why not you try whether their release would make their case better ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—Some of them were recommended for release and Government finding that their behaviour in the past was so dangerous thought it better not to release them.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Has the Chief Medical Officer had occasion to examine this Shekannan ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—Yes.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Is he of opinion that he will be a source of danger if he is let off ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—I do not know.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—If the enquiry is not complete, how is it possible to arrive at any definite cause with any definiteness ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—Several enquiries were made but we were not able to find out the exact cause.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Why not the benefit of the Ayurvedic treatment be given to these people ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—Ayurvedic treatment was given to these people and it was found unsuccessful.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Is there any reliable record to show that this one case which is supposed to have been cured was cured ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—He is dead and gone now. He was relieved to a certain extent.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Was not this Shekannan one of those recommended by the Committee for release, he being suffering from an incurable disease ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—I am not aware of it.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Yes, the Committee recommended for the release of Shekannan.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—What action has been taken on it ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Government did not allow it.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—What was the objection, please ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—There are specific provisions in the jail rules. There are certain specific conditions which should be satisfied before a prisoner could be released.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Was it unanimously recommended by the Committee ?

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Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I do not know whether anybody dissented. But the Committee recommended.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Who are the members of that Committee ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The Inspector-General of Prisons, Dr. A.R. Menon, the District and Sessions Judge of Trichur and one more non-official.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know, Sir, on what grounds the Government have refused to accede to the recommendation of the Committee ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I explained that. There are certain specific conditions in the jail rules which have to be satisfied. They were not satisfied and hence no action was taken. Recently, another communication has been received and we have called for the remarks of the Chief Medical Officer. It has just been received and the question is again under consideration.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Are they absolute rules ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—They are rules which have to be followed. The Government have already gone into this question not only once but twice or thrice.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—With reference to (e), may I know whether there is any record to show that he was completely cured ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—No.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Am I to take it that the Government considered that in acceding to the Committee's unanimous recommendation that the rule in this particular instance need not be amended ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Yes, the Hon'ble Member is right.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—May I know what that rule is ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I have not got those rules If the Hon'ble Member wants, I shall give the information during lunch.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Should not the Government be in possession of all these facts to answer this question ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The question is about the loss of the use of legs by the prisoners and about the treatment to be given to them, whether Allopathic treatment or Ayurvedic treatment. I could not anticipate that Shekannan's particular

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case will be brought in when the question could have been asked direct.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—When the prisoner under the Ayurvedic treatment was released did he satisfy all the conditions ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I want notice.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Is not Shekannan's name specifically mentioned in (b) ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Yes.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—So you could have anticipated.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Opinions differ.

Medical examination of the Peons and Constables.

127. Mr. Paul Mampilli. — Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(1) whether the peons and constables are not bound to undergo medical examination and produce a certificate of fitness before they are confirmed in Government service;

(2) if so, which medical officers are authorised to examine them and issue such certificates ;

(3) whether such medical officers can levy or receive any fees for issuing the certificates;

(4) whether such medical officers have received any fees in 1109 for issuing such certificates?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—

(1) Yes.

(2) All medical officers of and above the rank of an Assistant Surgeon.

(3) No.

(4) Government have no information.

Mr. Paul Mampilli.—Have the Government enquired about the matter ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—Yes.

Mr. Paul Mampilli.—What is the result of the enquiry ?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—They said that they have not received any fees.

E. N. T. Section in the General Hospital.

128. Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state :—

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